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Medical Work in China

A STATEMENT TO THE PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH : : : : : :

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BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
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A Statement of Conditions

APPALLING NEED China has every known disease. And because of the vastness of the Empire and the density of the population, epidemics in the most malignant form sweep over wide territories unchecked. Quarantine or isolation is unknown. There is no science of physiology or anatomy. There is no knowledge of hygiene or sanitation. There is no study of the origin or causes of disease.

DISEASE and DEMONS When a Chinese is stricken with disease, the cause is attributed to the malign influence of evil spirits, and the most potent remedy is supposed to be the propitiation of these spirits. With much noise and vile concoctions an attempt is made to dispossess the evil spirit. There are no capable Chinese physicians excepting those of the missions, but the land is full of quacks, and the sick and dying suffer greatly from the cruel, barbarous practices of these impostors.

The shadow of death from sickness, famine, and the plague always hangs over the terrified natives. Having no knowledge of God or of the Redeemer, no Christian faith, no Father's love, no future hope, their only comfort is the thought that there is no help, and what is must be, and must be endured. The consolation of fatalism and stoicism is their guardian angel.

WATER SUPPLY FROM OPEN SEWERS

A concrete case or two will emphasize conditions. Tientsin is a city in the Province of Chihli, North China, having a population of 750,000 to 1,000,000. This multitude get all of their water from the Pei Ho River and Grand Canal which flow through the city. As these streams are the open sewers for both the city and the large boat population, the daily water supply of these people is full of the germs of all manner of contagious diseases.

The Lanchow District of the North China Conference is about as healthy as any locality of that part of the Empire. It includes four large cities on the Lan River, Lao Ting, Lan Chou, Yung Ping, Chien An, and many large towns and villages. Contaminated as is the river water it is nevertheless purer than the water from any well in the whole region. Safety is found only in never drinking unboiled water. There is only one house in the entire District that an American would consider safe or healthy for his family. Most of the houses, of earth and thatch, are old and germ infected. The floors are of brick or earth thereby giving malaria a clear field.

"WHITE PLAGUE"

The "white plague," or consumption, is prevalent and deadly throughout China. As the germ theory is unknown, no precaution is taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The sick and the well live and sleep huddled together in poorly ventilated, and in cold weather unventilated, rooms or huts. The results are apparent. The end of the sufferer is hastened and victims are multiplied.

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEDICAL MISSIONARIES

Our medical missionaries go forth to counteract all this. Entering in through the ministrations of hospitals, dispensaries and country medical evangelistic work, they disarm prejudice, open doors, and win many souls for Christ. They follow the example of the Master, who went about doing good, and stand for practical Christianity and the best in Western civilization.

Already our physicians and surgeons in the Chinese Empire have accomplished much, both in healing the sick and in telling the Gospel story. Everywhere doors have opened to them that have been closed to evangelist and teacher. The opportunities now existing there for consecrated medical skill are practically limitless.

The home Church has sent these consecrated men. They are bearing our part of the burden. Hear their call!

Messages from the Fields

WILEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Kucheng, via Foochow, China

"We have but one amputating knife and that has a wooden handle. Last week I had to use my pocket hypodermic syringe to inject antidiptheritic serum in a laryngeal diptheritic case because we have not a single serum syringe. I have two important cases, one is a question of tuberculosis, the other of diphtheria. Both need a microscopic examination, but I cannot do this. There is an old microscope here, a cheap one, but it has no high power lens or Abbe condenser. We have no sterilizer for instruments or dressings. No centrifuge or urinary test apparatus for urine examination and so on. Brethren, I plead for a fair chance to do the work you have sent me out to this far away land to do."

Thomas H. Coole, M. D.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL

Ch'Angli Hsien, China.

"With about 10,000,000 people, with students and helpers to train, with a hospital full all the time (often having 30 in-patients), the difficult operating, all this

District to itinerate, all these sicknesses to heal and souls to save, sorely do I need another Medical Missionary as colleague, an outfit for country work, and support of Dispensaries and medical students and dispensers."

Joseph L. Keeler, M. D.

JOHN L. HOPKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Peking, China.

"Very little equipment has been added to the hospital during the past year, though we are very much in need of many things in order to get the best results. Electrical apparatus, in the shape of batteries and an X-ray machine, are badly needed. Many cases could be much more satisfactorily treated if we had such apparatus. The operating room, too, needs a very much better equipment than is now at hand.

Nehemiah S. Hopkins, M. D.
George D. N. Lowry, M. D.

PHILANDER SMITH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Nanking, China.

"The training of nurses, both men and women, has shown some result, and we have tried to secure in all departments a maximum of cleanliness and convenience for the execution of daily duties. Both men and women in China have the needed qualities to make good nurses, but much time and strength must necessarily be expended in this training, because of the different native eustoms of caring for the sick, which to us seem almost no care whatever."

Mrs. Christiana W. Hall, Supt.

CHUNKING GENERAL HOSPITAL

Chunking, China.

"We are glad to report an awakening among the progressive, wealthy Chinese. This year Mr. Yea, Manager of China Merchants, has come forward and offered to pay all cost in vaccinating the children of the city and surrounding country, and has billed the city over his own name with posters setting forth the advantages of foreign vaccine over the native, and urging the people to come to us to be vaccinated. This man has endowed a bed by a gift of $500.00."

J. H. McCartney, M. D.

TAIAN MEDICAL WORK

Taian, China.

"They have knocked their heads on each of the six thousand stone steps, have climbed to the top on their hands and knees, and in pain have kowtowed to their gods, only to be scorned. The priests have robbed them, and as a last resort they come to us, fearing, perhaps, that we too will treat them no better. These cases are usually of the worst type, and often nothing can be done. Others that might be helped will not stay, being suspicious of us and our place. Yet a few who would not stay last year for operations, this year came back and requested to stay till they are cured."

Charles E. Ensign, M. D.

What Can Be Done

What can a medical missionary do at the present time in China? Give him a hospital costing $7,000 to $10,000 and like those now laboring on the field he will—

DISPENSARY WORK Prescribe and dispense medicine in dispensaries, chapels and on the streets to 10,000 people annually, (some physicians with their assistants have reached 30,000) each of whom has the opportunity of hearing the Gospel for an hour or more. The preaching is done while the patient waits his turn for treatment.

HOSPITAL WORK Take into the hospital for operation and treatment 500 patients who remain two weeks on an average. Most of these are cured and thus given a new lease of life and efficiency. All hear the Gospel daily, attend prayer meeting, and are talked to and prayed with personally. Many are converted and saved to go out to save others by publishing the good news of salvation and the beneficent works of the "Jesus" Church.

MEDICAL COLLEGES Train native assistants and, with medical colleagues of other missions, found medical colleges. Peking has a large Union Medical College and other cities are planning similar institutions. These prepare and send out native physicians who will do for China what, in one generation, Japanese physicians have done for the people, the army and navy of Japan, thereby greatly lessening the sum total of suffering and prolonging life and service.

LECTURES Lecture and give addresses on medicine and disease; write pamphlets and tracts and translate foreign books on sanitary and hygienic truth.

The Christian Physician's Opportunity

To teach the Chinese how to avoid disease and premature death, and how to be healthy strong, happy and useful; to lead them in campaigns of hygiene and sanitation; to heal the sick, to give sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf; to make the lame walk; and to lead immortal souls out of darkness into the light of Jesus Christ—this is the opportunity of the consecrated physician and surgeon in this land of ignorance and disease.

The Methodist Episcopal Church during the next twelve months ought to send to China ten earnest, Christian physicians.

Bishop J. W. Bashford writes: "Medical missionary work affords a unique opportunity at the present time for reaching all classes of society; it also links Christianity with the best that Western science has to offer and thus gives it prestige among the Chinese. So thoroughly are the higher class Chinese coming to recognize the value of medical work that at some cities, such as Antau and Nanchang, they are offering to build hospitals for our church, if we will supply the physicians. Here is a splendid opportunity to do the Master's work in China today."

1906 Statistics of Hospitals in China under the Board of Foreign Missions, Methodist Episcopal Church.

Name of Institution	Hospital In-Patients	Out Calls	Operations	Country Itinerating Visits	Dispensary Patients	Total Dispensary Treatments	Total Treatments
Alden Speare Memorial, Yenping, J. L. Skinner, M.D. part'l year—just op'n'd)	....	...	....	.....	.....	3,790	.....
Kucheng Hospital, Thos. H. Coole, M.D.	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hopkins Memorial Hospital, Peking, M. S. Hopkins, M.D., G. D. Lowry, M.D..	235	....	....	1,200	4,645	25,038	.....
Martyrs' Memorial Hospital, Changli, J. L. Keeler, M.D.	100	....	412	360	2,000	.....	27,000
Taian Medical Work. Taian fu, Charles F. Ensign, M.D.	54	....	216	.....	1,098	2,742	.....
Philander Smith Memorial, Nanking, Christia W. Hall, Acting Sup't'd'nt....	....	....	....	.....	9,062	14,785	.....
Wuhu General Hospital, Wuhu, Edgerton H. Hart, M.D.	529	626	370	.....	3,512	7,298	8,453
Nanchang Medical Work. Nanchang fu, M. R. Charles, M.D. (New work)	....	....	....	. ....	1,001	2,000	.....
Chentu Hospital, Chentu, H. L. Canright, M.D.	118	53	....	.....	4,408	16,991	.....
Chungking General Hospital, Chungking, J. H. McCartney, M.D.	722	568	574	1,235	.....	14,048	.....
Total	1,758	1,247	1,572	2,795	25,726	86,692	

This is but a partial report from ten hospitals. It is difficult to gather data from such distant fields.